

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 ACDA-07 IGA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00

AGRE-00 /079 W

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R 140859Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4311

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KIGALI 765

KINSHASA FOR DAO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP RW US

SUBJECT: RWANDAN ARMED FORCES DAY: DEFATT ACCREDITATION/VISIT

REF: 75 KIGALI 747

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, MINDEF CHEF CABINET CMDT. RUSATIRA INQUIRED WHETHER KINSHASA-BASED US DEFATTS WOULD ATTEND RWANDAN ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATIONS OCT 26. WHEN IT NOTED INVITATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AND THAT GOR HAD REFUSED ACCREDITATION IN 1975, RUSATIRA STATED THAT NON-ACCREDITATION ACTION DID NOT ORIGINATE MINDEF AND WAS BASED ON ERRONIEOUS BELIEF US ATTEMPTING ACCREDIT ADDITIONAL NON-RESIDENT DEFATTS INSTEAD OF MERELY REPLACING DEFATTS WHO DEPARTED KINSHASA ON TRANSFER. (EMB COMMENT: AT TIME, AMB. EXPLAINED MATTER CAREFULLY TO FONMINISTRY SECGEN AND IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY GOR ACTIONS BASED ON MISUNDERSTANDING).

2. RUSATIRA SAID HE SPEAKING "ON BEHALF HIS MINISTER", I.E. PRES HABYARIMANA, IN REGRETTING "MISUNDERSTANDING" AND HOPING STATUS QUO ANTE COULD BE REESTABLISHED. HE
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SUGGESTED EMB. SEND LETTER TO MINISTER DEFENSE NOTING US

DESIRE "REPLACE" DEPARTED ATTACHES NOT ADDING TO THEIR NUMBER. HE GUARANTEED AN IMMEDIATE POSITIVE RESPONSE.

3. RUSATIRA HOPED THAT DEFATTS WOULD ATTEND RWANDAN ARMED FORCES DAY OBSERVANCES TUES. OCT 26. CHARGE NOTED THAT SINCE ATTACHES NOT ACCREDITED, ANY ATTENDANCE WOULD HAVE TO BE ON BASIS "MIL REPS FRIENDLY STATE" (REFTEL). MINDEF WOULD PREFER RESOLVE ACCREDITATION PROBLEM FIRST BUT WOULD RECEIVE ATTACHES IN EITHER CAPACITY OCT. 26.

4. GOR INTEREST RENEWING MIL RELATIONS BASED ON DESIRE RECEIVE MIL ASSISTANCE WHICH RUSATIRA SAID HE ANXIOUS DISCUSS DURING ANY ATTACHE VISIT. HE NOTED RWANDAN NEEDS IN TRAINING FIELDS, SUGGESTED OFFICER TRAINING IN U.S. AND PROVISION MIL EQUIPMENT E.G. PORTABLE RADIOS, TO ARMY. CHARGE NOTED PREVIOUS MIL ASSISTANCE LIMITED TO IPA TRAINING, THAT THIS FACILITY NOW CLOSED AND THAT US ASSISTANCE CONCENTRATED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTICULARLY AGRICULTURAL FIELD. BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL LIMITATIONS AND AID GUIDELINES, IT UNREALISTIC FOR GOR EXPECT ANY US ASSISTANCE MIL SPHERE. RUSATIRA NODDED BUT

INDICATED HE STILL DESIRES DISCUSS MATTER WITH ATTACHES.

5. EMB RECOMMENDATION: EMB. SUGGESTS DEPT CONCUR ACCEPTANCE ARMED FORCES DAY INVITATIONS ON BASIS "MIL REPS FRIENDLY STATE". DURING VISIT DEFATT COULD REITERATE US POSITION THAT ACCREDITATION WITHDRAWN AT GOR REQUEST AND SINCE THIS DIFFICULT REINSTITUTE, IT PREFERABLE MAINTAIN RELATIONS ON BASIS PERIODIC CEREMONIAL VISITS. OCCASION COULD ALSO BE USED TO UNDERSCORE UNLIKELIHOOD ANY US MIL ASSISTANCE. IF THIS UNDERSTOOD BY GOR FROM US MIL SOURCES, EMB. BELIEVES MINDEF WILL NOT CONTINUE PRESSING FOR RENEWAL OF ACCREDITATION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) FOR DEPT: CONCURRENCE MIL VISIT AS OUTLINED REFTEL, (B) FOR DAO KINSHASA: IF DEPT CONCURS VISIT, WOULD APPRECIATE ADVICE WHETHER LOW KEY DAO PARTY ABLE VISIT KIGALI OCT. 26.
HIGGINS

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